Literacy Rate

2789. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments are not playing the attention to raise literacy levels meaningfully;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were serious issues of access curriculam and management of the educational institutions which deserved for greater attentions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan (SSA) is a national programme for achieving universal elementary education by 2010. SSA provides, *inter-alia,* for opening of new schools, strengthening of school infrastructure, appointment of additional teachers, interventions for enrolment of out of school children, promotion of girls education, inclusive education for children with special needs, training of teachers, supply of free text books for girls, SC & ST students, interventions for promoting community ownership of schools, based on the Annual Work Plans proposed by the State/Union Territories each year.

Improvement of Engineering Colleges

2790. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether AICTE has any plans to encourage the existing engineering collages to improve their standards and also enhance their teaching staff;

(b) whether AICTE would assist the engineering collegesm which are located in rural areas of the country, to get better staff and teaching aids;

(c) whether AICTE would function in the same manner like the UGC and help the technical education;

(d) if so, the details of such plans and policies of AICTE; and

(e) the steps being taken at present in this regard and future plans of AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) AICTE has been continuosly taking up steps towards improvement of standards in the Engineering colleges/institutes. AICTE already has several schemes and programmes under which assistance is made available to engineering colleges, including those located in rural areas, for improving their standards and quality of teaching staff. Some of steps are such as Early Faculty Induction Programme, Emeritus Fellowship Scheme, Visiting Professorship Scheme, Career Awards for Young Teachers Scheme, Seminar/Travel Grant for Faculty development, Industry Institution Partnership Facilitation Cell, Research Promotion Scheme, Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence Scheme, Indian National Digital Liabary in Engineering, Science and Technology Programme for research and institutional development. However, mandates and budgetary resources of UGC and AICTE are quite distinct.

UGC Research Scientist Schemes

2791. SHRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a four members C.N. Rao Committee to work out the introduction of the UGC Research Scientist Scheme;

(b) whether this Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) the extent to which UGC failed in creating a Scientific Hub in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to encourage talented students to enter the science stream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee *interalia* include continuation of Scientists working under the Research Scientists Scheme of the University Grants Commission (UGC), creation of supernumerary positions to absorb the scientists wherever possible, to accommodate the Scientists in Central institutions as far as possible and to discontinue further recruitment under the Scheme.

(d) and (e) GGC has been making continuous efforts to encourage, scientific research in Universities/Colleges by way of introduction of various schemes like the Junior Research Fellow, Research Award.